

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 07 July 2004 (07.07.2004);
original claim 1, 2, 6, 8 and 9 amended; remaining claims unchanged 6 pages)]

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A data processing method of an
image processing system in which a server apparatus
and a data processing apparatus communicate with each
5 other to perform a predetermined data process,
comprising:

a storing step of storing an electronic data in
the data processing apparatus;

10 a first extraction step of extracting a feature
information of the electronic data to be output to a
printer apparatus stored in the data processing
apparatus;

15 a first transmission step of transmitting
original specifying information including the feature
information extracted in said first extraction step
and a user ID for discriminating a print requester of
the electronic data but not transmitting the
electronic data stored in the data processing
apparatus, to the server apparatus;

20 a control step of controlling generation of
print data to be output to the printer apparatus, on
the basis of original certification information
notified by the server apparatus and the electronic
data stored in the data processing apparatus; and

25 a print step of causing the printer apparatus
to print the print data generated in said control
step and information indicating that the print data

corresponds to an original.

2. (Amended) A data processing method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

5 a second extraction step of extracting additional information included in an original certification print image to be output to the printer apparatus based on the print data generated in said control step;

10 a second transmission step of transmitting to the server apparatus update information including the additional information extracted in said second extraction step, a new feature information extracted from new electronic data in said first extraction
15 step, the feature information and the user ID;

 an administration step of receiving the original specifying information transmitted from the data processing apparatus, registering the received information in a storage unit, and administrating the
20 registered information;

 an update step of updating the content of the original specifying information, by verifying the update information transmitted from the data processing apparatus and the original specifying
25 information; and

 a notification step of, when original certification printing is requested by the data

processing apparatus, notifying the data processing
apparatus of the original certification information
to be added to the electronic data, by referring the
original specifying information transmitted from the
5 data processing apparatus and the original specifying
information registered in the storage unit.

3. (Unchanged) A data processing method
according to Claim 2, wherein said administration
10 step performs file administration of the original
specifying information and administration information
of the original specifying information.

4. (Unchanged) A data processing method
15 according to Claim 2, wherein said update step
updates administration information stored in the
storage unit.

5. (Unchanged) A data processing method
20 according to Claim 4, wherein the administration
information includes a registration number, a
registration date, version information, an update
history and a confirmation history for administrating
the original specifying information.

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6. (Amended) A data processing method according
to Claim 2, wherein said update step updates any one

of a registered registration date, a feature information, version information, and an update history included in the information stored in the storage unit.

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7. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 2, further comprising:

10 a confirmation step of, when original confirmation is requested by the data processing apparatus, confirming originality of the original specifying information by referring the original specifying information transmitted from the data processing apparatus and the original specifying information registered in the storage unit; and

15 a confirmation notification step of notifying the data processing apparatus of a confirmation result in said confirmation step.

20 8. (Amended) A data processing method according to Claim 2, wherein the storage unit stores, as administration information, information specifying a date when the feature information is recorded.

25 9. (Amended) A data processing method according to Claim 1, wherein said control step adds the feature information to the print data as a digital watermark.

10. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 1, wherein said control step adds area information, for inputting signature information, to the print data.

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11. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 10, further comprising a step of extracting a signature image drawn in the area information added in said control step, and transmitting the extracted signature image to the server apparatus.

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12. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of, when reprinting is requested by the data processing apparatus, notifying the data processing apparatus of administration information to be added to the electronic data, by referring the original specifying information transmitted from the data processing apparatus and the original specifying information registered in the storage unit.

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13. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 12, further comprising a confirmation step of, when the reprinting is requested by the data processing apparatus, confirming determination as to whether or not to

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perform the printing by referring restriction information.

5 14. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 13, wherein the restriction information indicates the maximum number of printing of the electronic data or an upper limit value of the number of printing of the electronic data.

10 15. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 13, wherein the restriction information is original specifying information for specifying a user other than registered users who can print the electronic data.

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 16. (Unchanged) A data processing method according to Claim 13, wherein the restriction information indicates a date or a time when the electronic data can be printed.

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